



# GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

-----0-----

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

No. 45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted  
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00840

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator

TEL: (340) 773-1082

FAX: (340) 713-2430

[jamal.nielsen@dpnr.gov.vi](mailto:jamal.nielsen@dpnr.gov.vi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, November 04, 2016

### **DPNR DEPLOYS FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES IN ST. THOMAS AND ST. CROIX**

Commissioner Dawn L. Henry, Esq., of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, announces that the Division of Fish and Wildlife has deployed two new fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the territory.

FAD **X22** was deployed around St. Croix on October 24, 2016, approximately 8 miles west of Ham's Bluff. This buoy replaces a FAD that was previously deployed in this location, known as "S FAD". FAD **T7** was deployed around St. Thomas on October 31, 2016, and is located approximately 14 miles north of Cricket Rock. Both FADs are surface buoys that contain radar reflectors and flashing lights to facilitate navigation.

The GPS coordinates are as follows:

FAD #	Latitude	Longitude	Reference
X22	17° 46.798' N	65° 01.058' W	8 mi W of Ham's Bluff, St. Croix
T7	18° 38.102' N	65° 03.310' W	14 mi N of Cricket Rock, St. Thomas

Commissioner Henry reminds boaters that mooring vessels up to the FADs is not permitted, as it weakens the buoy components and can cause the FADs to break away. Deployment of the FADs will benefit the Territory by shifting fishing pressure from heavily fished inshore areas to offshore areas with more abundant populations of pelagic sport fish species such as tuna, dolphin, and wahoo. The FAD program will also provide enhanced and improved fishing opportunities to recreational anglers in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



The Division of Fish and Wildlife anticipates deploying additional FADs around the territory within the next few months. The GPS coordinates of these FADs will be announced upon deployment. For locations of existing FADs or for more information, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (340) 775-6762 on St. Thomas or (340) 773-1082 on St. Croix, or visit the USVI FAD Program Facebook page: "U.S. Virgin Islands Fish Aggregating Devices – FADs".

**This project is 100% funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Fund.**